June 2020 ISSUE NO. 591

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's EXCITER

GET INVOLVED

- RARS General Membership meeting: Second Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night except Saturday @ 8 p.m. on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net: Saturdays @ 8:00 PM on 146.64.
- ~~RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the First Tuesday of each month.~~

PUBLIC SERICE EVENTS

Interested in helping? Visit https://www.rars.org/public-service.php

frequently for our 2020 ham public service schedule.

RARS General Meeting

Topic: Field Day

Presenter: Bob Starkenburg, W4TTX

Date: June 9, 2020

Time: Meeting at 7:30 PM, informal gathering at 7PM on Zoom.

Where: Zoom

President's Message for Exciter, June 2020

We will be spending another month with—mostly--virtual meetings. The next RARS club meeting will be on June 9 on Zoom, as it was in May. In this month's program, RARS Field Day chair, Bob Starkenburg, W4TTX, will bring us up to date on plans for Field Day.

The RARS board will probably meet virtually in June, as we did in May. Check-ins are up on the nightly nets, and the weekly Taco Thursday net, with a focus on tech topics, has been well attended.

Rules on gathering size have loosened somewhat, but are still too restrictive for us to plan very far ahead. Social distancing is still the default setting for planning most gatherings. Field Day is no excep-

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are $18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are $9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website.

https://www.rars.org

Exciter

The Exciter is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The Exciter welcomes articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's Exciter is the Saturday that is ten days before the general meeting. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

The views expressed in the Exciter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Tom Lewis, N4TL, editor (editor@rars.org)

For Your Information

RARS General Meeting

Date: Second Tuesday of each month

~~Location: Ridge Road Baptist Church 2011 Ridge Road Raleigh, NC, 27607~~

~~Time: People begin arriving at 7 p.m. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 p.m.~~

RARS Monthly Dinner

~~All members and guests are welcome to the monthly (first Tuesday) RARS Supper, 6:30PM, at the IHOP Restaurant, 7471 Six Forks road, 27615. Its on the corner of Six Forks road and Sawmill Road, 6:30 PM to 8PM. They have a room for us that is to the left when you enter the restaurant. Informal and Dutch, just bring your appetite and best rag to chew.~~

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

146.640 and 444.525

Join us for the nightly RARS net at 8 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

There is a net Listing on the RARS web-site click here. https://www.rars.org/nets.php

VE Testing

~~The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing in February, May, August and November at 5:30PM, prior to RARS membership meetings at Ridge Road Baptist Church; the RARS*fest* in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARS-Fest in November; and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID, your original and a copy of your current license, your $14 exam fee, and any valid CSCEs that prove passing elements beyond that of your current license. Visit https://www.rars.org for more information.~~

May 2020 Net Summaries

RARS Net

Checkins: 665

Traffic Brought/Passed: 11/11

Minutes: 1427

Sessions: 31

Taco Thursday Net

Checkins: 87

Minutes: 199

Sessions: 4

Virginia Enzor NC4VA
RARS Net Manager

RARS Shirts



ttps://www.shopsupremets.com/store/c8/RARS#/

Presidents Comments continued

tion. Our normal gathering at the Carroll farm is cancelled, but everyone is encouraged to operate for the event. We're planning an intra-club contest that should be fun when operating on Field Day from your base station, outside with a portable station, or going mobile. Details are elsewhere in this issue or on the RARS web site under the "Field Day" button.

I'm having fun planning a portable station for Field Day, to be operated on my front porch or my back yard. I haven't decided yet, and anyway, it will depend on the weather. I'll use a battery or generator for power, or maybe both. For an antenna, well, I haven't decided that yet, either. I have a few possibilities in mind, depending on how I feel about cost and ease of use. At very least, when Field Day is over, I'll have the basics of a portable HF rig and some kind of go-kit. I hope you are enjoying making plans for your Field day station, too.

On another topic, listen on the nets for announcements about the mini Ham fest tailgate party that Alan, AB4OZ and Martin, KI4CFS are planning on one of the Taco Thursday net mornings. So far it's been scrubbed by the weather. Now it looks like a covered site has been identified, so stay tuned.

Hopefully, meeting restrictions will loosen still further in months to come, and we will be meeting in person by July. In the mean time, remember that Hams pretty much invented virtual meetings, before Skype, or Zoom, or what have you. That's why the ether is there in the first place, so Hams can meet up on the air.

73 to all.

John Honeycutt, N8ZU

RARS President



Kenwood TS-590

May 12, 2020 RARS meeting

The May 12th RARS membership meeting was held via Zoom. The meeting started at 7:30 PM. There was an informal gathering via Zoom starting at 7:00 PM. An email with the Zoom details was sent to the membership the day before .

The presentation "Radio and the Disappearance of Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan", was done by Brian Harrison, KN4R.



Brian Harrison, KN4R,
Screen capture during the meeting.



RCA AR 60 Radio Receiver



Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan

May 12, 2020 RARS meeting

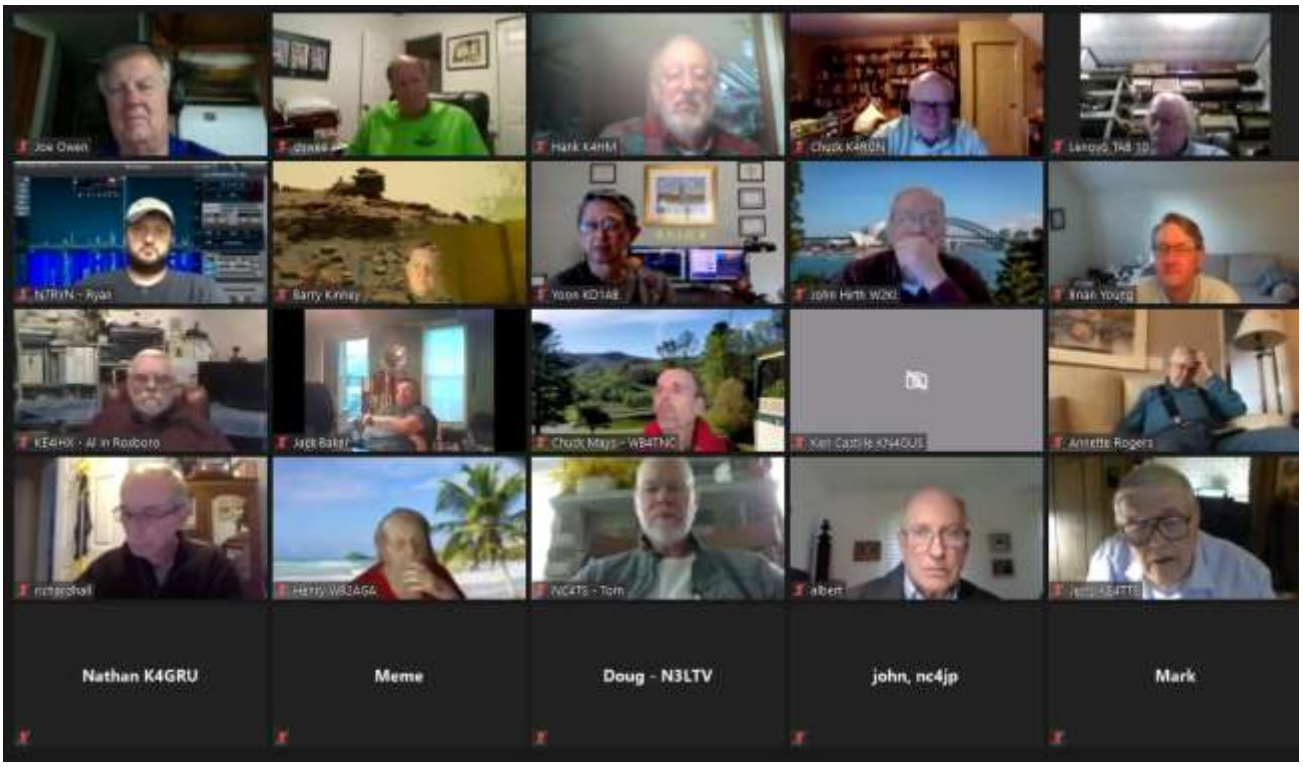
Radio
and the Disappearance of
Amelia Earhart and
Fred Noonan

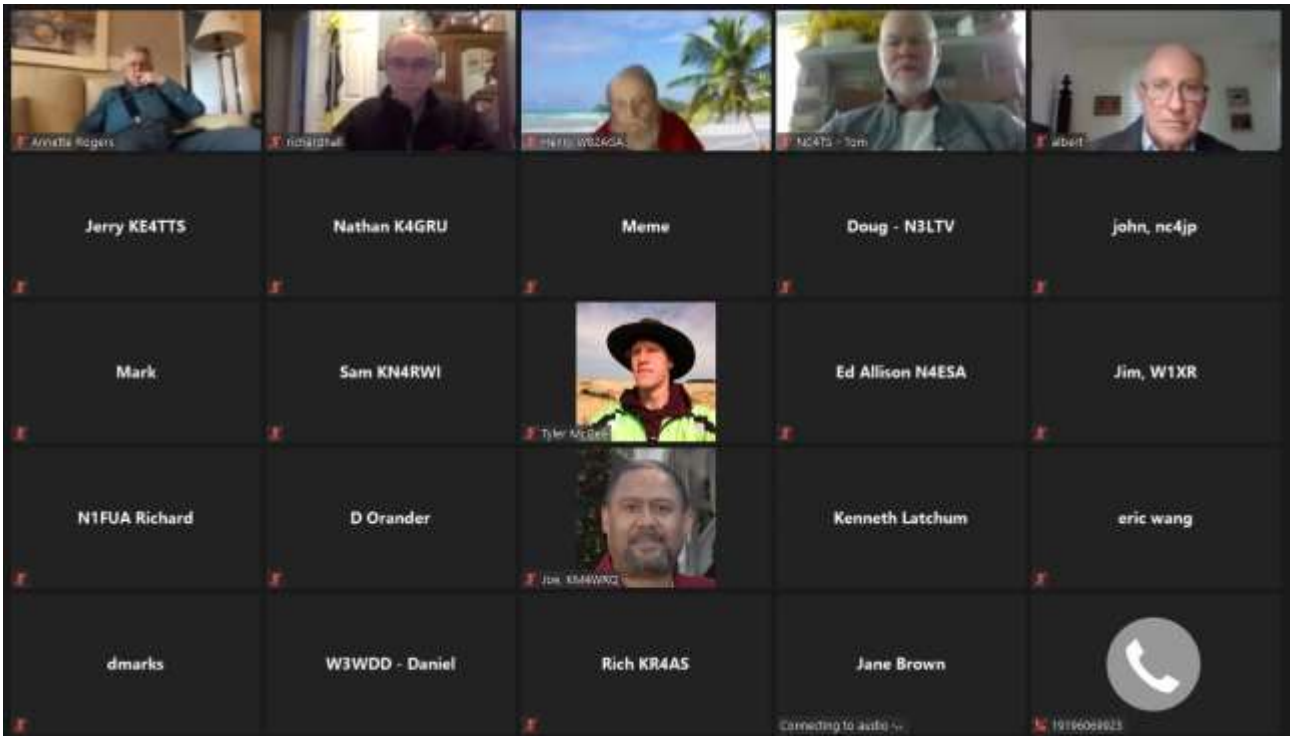
Anyone who missed the presentation can watch the recent BARC version here https://vimeo.com/407830148, password is BARC-W4AMC



Two screen captures during the Zoom meeting on may 12, 2020

May 12, 2020 RARS meeting





Two screen captures during the Zoom meeting on may 12, 2020

During the April RARS meeting on the 146.64 repeater everyone was asked to send a selfie to the Exciter Editor.

Here are two more.



Jay Diepenbrock, KM4EP



Ken Castille, KN4GUS

What is Field Day?

Field Day is a picnic, a camp-out, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN! ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. More than 35,000 radio amateurs fire up their radios on the fourth full weekend of June each year and start 24 hours of amateur radio heaven. It is a time where many aspects of our hobby come together to highlight the many roles we play in the community. The skills we develop during Field Day are the same skills we use when we help with emergency situations and public service. Ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in extraordinary situations when it really matters.

RARS Field Day 2020

This year is an opportunity for our club to do something different. Due to restrictions on mass gatherings and social distancing, RARS will not be hosting its usual Field Day event at the Carrol farm. Instead, the club will host an informal competition between club members. You can operate from your home station on commercial power, or, better yet, emergency power. You can operate mobile. You can operate portable from your backyard, the beach, the mountains, or anywhere in between. The whole idea is to get on the air and have some fun while engaging in a friendly competition with your fellow club members. Certificates and bragging rights will be awarded at the September meeting to the individuals who score the most points in their class. We will also publish the scores of all participants in ***The Exciter.***

Anyone who chooses to participate in the RARS Intra Club Competition must abide by latest mandates from Governor Cooper regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in effect at the time of the contest, including but not limited to mandates regarding social distancing, mass gatherings, and high risk populations.

Competition Rules

The following paragraphs set out the rules for this year's competition:

Field Day Continued

1. Field Day 2020 will be held June 27-28, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday (2:00 PM) and ending at 2059 UTC Sunday (1:59 PM).

2. The only ARRL Field Day class designators eligible for the RARS 2020 FD Intra Club Competition are:

B - Either one person or two person portable operation using emergency power, battery or alternate non-generator power, or commercial power.

C - Mobile stations

D - Home stations using commercial power

E - Home stations using emergency power

For Field Day 2020 only, **Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points.**

Field Day rule 4.6 defines Class D stations as “Home stations,”including stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D stations ordinarily may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C, E, and F Field Day stations, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows Class D stations to count contacts with other Class D stations for QSO credit.

In addition, for 2020 only, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club (similar to the aggregate score totals used in ARRL affiliated club competitions).

Ordinarily, club names are only published in the results for Class A and Class F entries, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows participants from any Class to optionally include a single club name with their submitted results following Field Day.

Just as ARRL recognizes participants in each class and subclass, we will present certificates to the top scorers in each class and subclass, for example B1, B1B, B2, B2B, 1D, 2D, 1E, 2E, 3E etc.

Field Day Continued

3. All ARRL rules remain in place and are to be followed by all participants. You can find the rules at http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/1_61-2020%20Rules.pdf. That includes date and time of operation, station set up, exchange, miscellaneous rules, and scoring. Field Day contacts are allowed using Phone, CW and Digital (non-CW) modes per ARRL rules. The designated exchange for this year remains the same. Give your class and section. The numerical prefix for your class is determined by the maximum number of ***simultaneously*** transmitted signals followed by your class designator. For example, if you are operating at home on emergency power and you have a single transmitter then you are 1E North Carolina. If you and a family member are operating portable on emergency power and have 2 transmitters operating simultaneously at any point in the contest then you are a 2B North Carolina.

4. Bonus Points allowed for the RARS 2020 FD Intra Club Competition are as follows:

a. Emergency Power
b. Satellite QSO
c. Alternate Power
d. W1AW Bulletin
e. Web Submission

No other bonus points will be awarded. You can refer to the ARRL 2020 Field Day rules for specifics on how to obtain bonus points at:

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/1_61-2020%20Rules.pdf

5. To participate in the RARS intra-club Field Day competition you ***must*** submit your scores to ARRL by using their ***web submission protocol*** via the **https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php** web app. It is a very easy to use app that contains all the information the ARRL needs to accept your score. When you receive the email from ARRL confirming your submission you will forward that email to W4TTX at W4TTX@arrl.net. ***Deadline for submission to ARRL is Tues-***

Field Day Continued

day July 28th, 2020. The deadline for submission of your confirmatory email to W4TTX is Tuesday August 4th, 2020 by 11:59 PM.

If you have any questions about Field Day or the intra-club competition send me an email at W4TTX@arrl.net.

If you are new to computer logging software, I recommend N1MM which can be downloaded for free here: https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com

Here is a nice You Tube video on how to set up N1MM for Field Day:

https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=how+to+set+up+n1mm+for+field+day&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8#kpvalbx=_dY7WXo-SOuW0ggeyqIGoDA21

https://viennawireless.net/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/N1MM-Setup-and-Operations-for-Field-Day.pdf

And finally, this is how you go about generating a Cabrillo file in N1MM to submit your log to ARRL:

- Select File >Generate Cabrillo File.
- Make sure that your Station information (Config >Change Your Station Data), and overall contest setup are correct (in the Contest Setup dialog, reached through File >Open Log in Database …). For example, is your entry class correct? Your power classification? Whether Assisted or not? Are your State and ARRL Section both entered correctly in your station data?
- Did you put the right information in the Sent Exchange field, and nothing else? For example, when the exchange in a contest is 5NN WV, it may be tempting to put the whole thing in the Sent Exchange. That will screw up the Cabrillo file with multiple signal reports for each QSO,

Field Day Continued

so get in the habit of putting the signal report in your stored messages, not in this field.

- A Cabrillo file will be created named your_call.LOG. By default this is placed in the ExportFiles sub-folder in the N1MM Logger+ user files directory, but you are given the options of choosing a different name and/or of saving the file anywhere else you wish.
- It is a good idea to rescore your log (Tools >Rescore Current Contest) before generating the Cabrillo file.

Remember, Field Day is all about emergency preparedness, and running a station from home or a portable station on emergency power is at the heart of the event. Have fun! See you on the radio!

73, Bob Starkenburg, W4TTX

Future RARS Meeting Topics

Titles, topics, and speakers subject to change.

7/14/2020	Patrolling The Ether: The FCC's "Radio Intelligence Division" (RID) in WWII	Brian Harrison, KN4R
8/11/2020	An Introduction to the NanoVNA	Dan Marks, KW4TI
9/8/2020	Antenna Tuners	Doug Hall, K4DSP

The next few meeting of RARS will be held using Zoom at 7:30PM. Zoom is a conferencing application that runs on computers, tablets and phones. The meeting ID will be sent out to everyone via email.

Quick start guide for new Zoom users

https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360034967471-Quick-start-guide-for-new-users#h_b0c98dfa-d90f-486d-9617-71ab7b41a273

Zoom help center

https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us

Time to Renew!

Please help us continue to provide quality programs, activities, and events for our club members. One of the ways we do this is through the RARS annual dues. The membership year is July 1-June 30, so it's time to renew!

Dues

Regular $18

Reduced (under 12 or over 60) $12

Associate (not licensed) $9

Each additional family member $5

*Note: You have the option to renew for multiple years!

You can renew by mailing your dues or by paying on-line via PayPal.

1) Mail your dues to the RARS Treasurer at the following address:

RARS
c/o Greg Seamster
1405 Leanne Court
Raleigh, NC 27606

2) Pay online at https://www.rars.org/membership_renewal.php. Online payments are made via PayPal to Raleigh_ARS@earthlink.net.
Note: A PayPal account is not required to make a credit card payment.

Note: You can view your membership status and update data at https://www.rars.org/userprofile.php.

Thanks! We could not do it without you.

Greg Seamster KE4PAX
RARS Treasurer

RARS Birthdays

Dan	KI4ZBW	06/03
Nick	KN4WNW	06/05
Gwen	KF4EUT	06/05
Mark	KM4JRH	06/06
Bruce	KI4PAC	06/07
Rick	N4VQT	06/07
David	W4OFO	06/10
Charles	NZ0I	06/11
Matt	KN4MIO	06/11
Ken	KN4GUS	06/11
Mike	KB1KOZ	06/14
Ron	K4RJT	06/17
Big T	KN4WJL	06/18
Wade	KK4UGY	06/19
Don	KN4ZXZ	06/20
William	W4AK	06/21
Patrick	KM4QDZ	06/22
Bobbie	KD4ZVW	06/22
Kelly	KD4EWG	06/24
Sheri	KN4ZYG	06/30
David Buchanan III		06/30
Mike	K4MBX	06/30

New Members

Joe Owen	K4HEW
Rick Shanks	N1GNF
Neil Riemann	KX4YK
Tom Tyndall	K6UTJ
Ernie Bauer	N1AEW
Jeff Stewart	K4ZXX

Everyone is welcome!



Due to the COVID-19

Pandemic Taco Thursdays has moved to the 146.64 repeater.

11:30 AM



ICOM IC-7300

Interesting Websites

RARS Shirts
Mark Kilmer, KM4JRH, provided this information about RARS shirts.
https://www.shopsupremets.com/store/c8/RARS#/

Social Distancing Ham radio music video
by The Ham Band from David VK3RU
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pqypm0d3sg&feature=youtu.be

The Man who invented stereo
https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/9akvby/the-man-who-invented-stereo

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Blumlein

Dit Dit podcast interviews Carl Davis, W8WZ
The podcast is about CW NTS traffic nets and how RARS has a training program for traffic handling. Click the triangle next to Episode #31 at the bottom.
https://www.ditdit.fm/shows/episode-31-cw-traffic-nets

Contest University 2020

Ten hour Zoom conference with 2,200 participants. It is an all-day show.

Contest University from the Dayton Amateur Radio Association.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEEUpsWUtAA

All the slides used in the presentations are at the contest university website.

https://www.contestuniversity.com/course-outline/

Here are a few interesting sites sent to the Exciter by Brian, KN4R.

The Antique Wireless Museum in East Bloomfield NY has a new YouTube channel with videos free to the public: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX55peBhzeX1qps_VYXdLBA/videos

If anyone is interested in contributing a presentation, please contact archivist Criss Onan, conference_chair@antiquewireless.org

Vintage military radios
http://www.tuberadio.com

Volunteer Monitor Program by Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH.
It is a YouTube video recorded May 12, 2020. Riley starts at about 12:15 into the video.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lEK4GDtuYnU

Type N connectors 50 and 75 ohm

Did you know that there are two types of type N connectors? Mixing them can cause damage.

From Wikipedia.

Impedance options.



Picture showing the similarity between 50 Ω (bottom) and 75 Ω (top) Type N connectors

The N connector follows MIL-STD-348, a standard defined by the US military, and comes in 50 and 75 ohm versions. The 50 ohm version is widely used in the infrastructure of land mobile, wireless data, paging and cellular systems. The 75 ohm version is primarily used in the infrastructure of cable television systems. Connecting these two different types of connectors to each other can lead to damage, and/or intermittent operation due to the difference in diameter of the center pin.

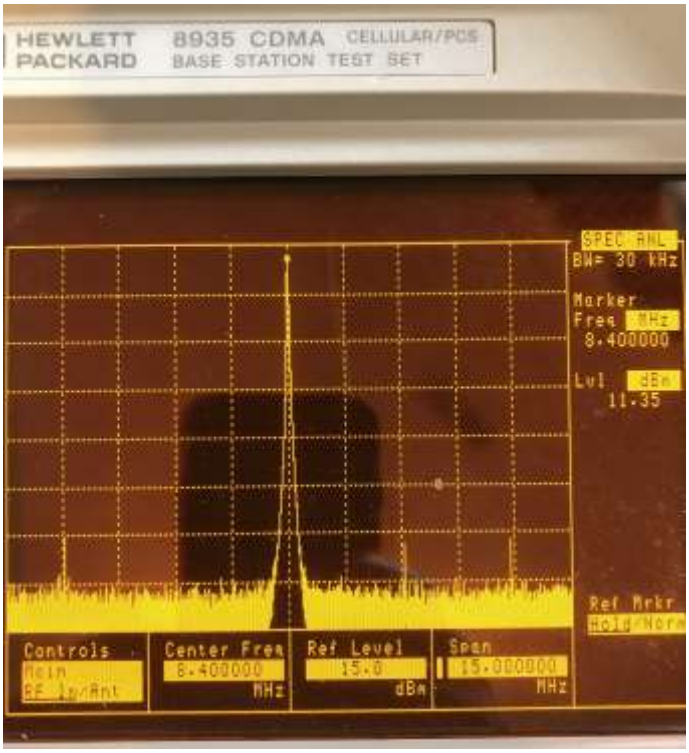
Unfortunately, many type N connectors are not labeled, and it can be difficult to prevent this situation in a mixed impedance environment. The situation is further complicated by some makers of 75 ohm sockets designing them with enough spring yield to accept the larger 50 ohm pin without irreversible damage, while others do not. In general a 50 ohm socket is not damaged by a 75 ohm pin, but the loose fit means the contact quality is not guaranteed; this can cause poor or intermittent operation, with the thin 75 ohm male pin only barely mating with the larger 50 ohm socket in the female.

The 50 ohm type N connector is favored in microwave applications and microwave instrumentation, such as spectrum analyzers. 50 Ω N connectors are also commonly used on amateur radio devices (e.g., transceivers) operating in UHF bands.

Where have all the crystals gone?

Sadly, the manufacturers of crystals for the amateur and experimenter have largely folded their tents.

Not to worry. Hayseed Hamfest LLC has teamed up once again with W9RAN's RAN Technology to offer the following easy to build four-frequency oscillator board in kit form. The board will hold up to four programmable frequency oscillator chips (not included - available for under $5.00 each from Digi-Key). These PLL frequency sources can give you a super-stable quartz crystal substitute in many radios. Any frequency from 1 to 125 MHz may be specified



All input and output signals are buffered to protect the oscillators from inadvertent damage. The output is a clean 5-volt P-P signal that has proven suitable for driving mixers, up- and down-converters, receiver LOs, channelized transceivers and transmitters as a crystal substitute. (External amplification may be required to drive some transmitters to full output; also, these oscillators may not be shifted in frequency such as for clarifier or FM modulation).

The four-channel board is provided as an easy-to-build kit - No surface mount components - All through-hole construction - IC's are socket mounted. Overall size is 2" by 2" by < 1/2" high so it can be mounted inside many radios.

With few manufacturers providing custom quartz crystals, the four-channel oscillator board is a flexible alternative for many frequency control needs.

Suitability for a given application and specification of correct oscillator frequency is the responsibility of the user. Requires 8-18VDC at 100ma source (not included).

Below is the data on the oscillator.

https://hayseedhamfest.com/products/ran-technology-four-channel-oscillator-board

Thanks to Charlie, WA3UTC for sending this information to the Exciter.

Meet the DVstick 30

Ever since first licensed in 1973, I have been a frugal (cheap) ham, always buying fix-er-up equipment. The first new radio I ever purchased was a vhf/uhf mobile in 1999. 3 years later I made my only other new radio purchase, an ICOM 706MK2g at a wholesale price. I never purchased a D-Star radio because they were expensive and I didn't know if D-Star would become popular enough, or last long enough, to be worth such an investment. Then in 2016 at the Orlando HamCation one of the dealers had a sale on the DV3K Dongle which uses DVTool gateway software to provide direct access to D-Star DPlus reflectors from a computer, bypassing the need for a radio or repeater - and the price was less than $200. I decided to take a chance and try this mode. I knew of a morning D-Star chat group with about half a dozen participants, a few of which I had know for years. (See "RVing with D-STAR" in the December 2016 Network News) That chat group became my morning routine until a Windows-10 update resulted in the DVTool software no longer being compatible with my HP laptop running Windows-10. At that point I resurrected an old Windows-7 laptop computer in order to continue any D-Star activity. But having an extra computer just for a morning coffee session was a bit cumbersome in the limited space of an RV and my participation slacked off a bit, especially whenever we were traveling for more than a day between locations.

Then in February of this year someone told me about the new "DVstick 30" that, like the DV3K Dongle, turns your computer into a gateway to access the D-Star network directly. But unlike the DV3K Dongle which accessed only DPlus reflectors, the DVstick 30 provides access to all 4 types of D-Star reflectors as well as all of the DMR network. The DMR access would cost less than $150, less than I had paid for the DV3K Dongle, and it wouldn't require me to learn how to program a DMR radio or build a code plug. I was sold!





DVstick 30 is a product of DVMega inc. The BlueDV Windows software is from PA7LIM, David Grooten

I ordered the DVstick 30, downloaded and installed BlueDV software (with one mouse click), and registered my call at RadioID (which provides a required ID# to access the DMR network). A few days later my own

Meet the DVstick 30, continued

DVstick 30 arrived and within minutes I was on D-Star with my laptop computer. Being unfamiliar with DMR I had to spend a couple of hours researching DMR information online before I was able to get on DMR. But once I had the software configured DMR was almost as easy as D-Star. It turns out there are basically 2 flavors of DMR - Brandmeister and DMR+. While both use the same digital mode they have different repeater organizational structure and use somewhat different terms although there is some overlap between the two. Once you start using DMR you will quickly learn the nuances.

So in late February and early March I had fun exploring the capabilities of the DVstick 30. Then in mid March the COVID-18 pandemic required us to be self-quarantined so we stayed in our RV at the same campground in Raleigh NC from March 16 until April 16. I also have an AnyTone AT-878UV radio that I had only used on traditional analog FM because programming the radio from the manual was difficult and I had not ventured to attempt a code plug. So during that month of quarantine, with the help of a couple of friends who were using DMR, I became somewhat familiar with programming the radio and building (or at least modifying) code plugs, so I now have the ability to operate on DMR using either the radio or the DVstick 30. I have to say that the DVstick 30 with BlueDV software is the easier to use, but it is only available when at the computer. When away from the computer the radio is the only option - but it is dependent on having a repeater in range and since we typically stay away from town there is usually no repeater in our area.

Another option for digital voice operation without a local repeater is to have one of the various hotspots that abound today supporting D-Star, DMR, and Fusion/YSF. A hotspot is basically an internet gateway to the DMR network. Most hotspots are based on Raspberry Pi with a tiny radio added turning it into a tiny local repeater. Hotspots will often provide programmable functions and automation making them even more versatile than the DVstick 30. The cost of a hotspot winds up being comparable to the DVstick 30, but being a repeater it requires you to use a radio to access the hotspot.

So as you can see, there are many digital voice ham radio options out there today. And it seems like every month there are more options available that support more digital voice modes. Any of them can link you to nearly anywhere in the world. There is a huge expanse out there to be explored, and a huge number of hams around the world waiting for a QSO with you.

73,
K4HM - Hank

UPDATE: During the first week of May 2020, PA7LIM announced that in the next couple of weeks he will publish the next release of BlueDV which will add TX capability on Yaesu System Fusion.

Hamvention 2020 CANCELLED….Let's party!

No, we didn't celebrate because we couldn't all travel to Dayton to attend the largest hamfest in the world and get a chance to get some "eyeball QSOs" with fellow hams then drool over the new, shiny equipment from all the vendors and suppliers. The folks at the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) along with the Dayton Hamvention organizers thought of a fun way to get Hams to reach out and meet others during the COVID-19 pandemic. They announced a QSO party to be held on Saturday, May 16th from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EDST on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters CW and SSB. With social distancing, only single operators were allowed with the purpose of trying to get as many contacts as possible. The simple QSO exchange was a signal report and the first year of attendance at Dayton Hamvention. For those like me who had never attended, the year is 2020.



It was a beautiful Spring day and not wanting to pass up a good QSO party, I set up my portable rig early Saturday morning under a tent canopy in my driveway. Without a base station setup, I do all my operating portable like a mini-Field Day so I setup my Yaesu-891 with an LDG 100Plus tuner, Bioenno 12V, 30Ah battery and a Buddipole dipole antenna with an 18 ft. mast. The winds were light but I wanted to add some stability to my Buddipole so I attached a gallon jug of water to the tripod and that worked great.

The event started off slow and I alternated between 20 and 40 meters. My first contact was a station in Colorado and after that, things started picking up later in the morning. Running only 100 watts is always a challenge especially trying to break through pileups against stations running full legal power but I take successes where I can get them. I ended up with 27 contacts for the QSO Party with some contacts who had attended Dayton as early as 1953! I was able to make special contacts with a couple of notable Hams. One was Valerie Hotzeld, NV9L, an on-air personality with Ham Nation on TWIT TV and the other with Tim Duffy, K3LR, CEO of DX Engineering. As with contests, no time for chat; just exchange info and move on. I took a few breaks during the day while scanning 20 and 40 meters and I did get a few additional QSOs with stations in Costa Rica, Italy, Puerto Rico and Russia so I felt good that my signal was getting out there.

All in all, I had a good day hammin' and we all know even a bad day of hammin' is better than a good day at work. As the warmer weather approaches, I'll be looking for some more QSO Parties or Special Events and can't wait for Field Day 2020.

Ken Castille, KN4GUS

RARS Classifieds

Copied from https://www.rars.org/classifieds.php

The items below were listed within the last 30 days on the RARS website.

Hallicrafters SX-62A receiver

Posted June 3rd, 2020 by: N4TL

Contact: n4tl2@yahoo.com

Working Hallicrafters SX-62A receiver. It is in a homemade wood cabinet and has been recapped. The knobs are not original. The dial glass is a reproduction from Radio Daze ($60.40). Its old so it's sold as is. It could use a fan to get the heat out above the rectifier and 6V6 tubes. $70.
Send an email if interested.

Four way remote antenna switch **SOLD**

Posted June 3rd, 2020 by: N4TL

Contact: n4tl2@yahoo.com

LDG DTS-4 four position switch with a DTS-4R remote control for DTS-4.
https://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/switch/4670.html
requires 12-volt power adapter, not included. $50
send an email if interested.

For Sale

Posted May 26th, 2020 by: KB4FEU

Contact: rquillin5@att.net

Kenwood TS-440S HF Transceiver with automatic antenna tuner - Kenwood SP-430 speaker Kenwood MC-80 desk microphone - Kenwood Hand microphone - TS-440S Instruction Manual - TS-440S Service Manual - Astron RS-35M DC Power Supply with dual Meters - Ever thing is working properly.
All for $600.00

B&W 551A Coax Switch Free

Posted May 17th, 2020 by: KN4RFT

Contact: kn4rft@gmail.com

Free to a good home. One B&W coax switch for use with a B&W Matchmaster. I have the stitch, box. and instruction sheet, but the box has gotten wet at some point and the SO-239s on the switch show some cor-

rosion. If anyone is has a Matchmaster or is interested in this item, it is up for grabs.
Price: free Pick up in Rolesville.
KN4RFT kn4rft@gmail.com or 919-906-7844

Acutek Research Message Memory CMOS Keyer MK-1
Posted May 16th, 2020 by: KN4RFT
Contact: kn4rft@gmail.com

For sale is one Acutek Research CW memory keyer. Can contain up to 4 CW memories. Very good appearance. Price: $20 obo
Pick up in Rolesville. KN4RFT kn4rft@gmail.com or 919-906-7844

3x 20ft RG-8U Coax with PL-259 Connectors
Posted May 16th, 2020 by: KN4RFT
Contact: kn4rft@gmail.com

For sale are 3 rolls of RG-8U coax, each roll is 20 feet long. Each roll has 2 PL-259 connectors installed. All 3 rolls test good for continuity. Price: $25 for all obo
Pick up in Rolesville. KN4RFT kn4rft@gmail.com or 919-906-7844

FS: Amperite Time Delay
Posted May 13th, 2020 by: W4BOH
Contact: infomet@embarqmail.com

Amperites of several voltage and delay ratings.
Used to let your filaments warm up before HV can be turned on. Or other delay functions too.
$3 each, plus post if you don't want to see Hillsborough.
Wilson W4BOH

FS: Vintage Stuff in Hillsborough
Posted May 13th, 2020 by: W4BOH
Contact: infomet@embarqmail.com

Several good size power xfmrs, filter caps, rectifiers...
Some too heavy to pick up.

RARS Classifieds continued

Some amplifiers, even some modulators and modulation xfmrs!
Some small stuff too...PS components, 6L6s, 6146s, 5763s, 6CL6s, and others
Just what you've been looking for!
Even a haynes Clipper regen from 1938, bet you never saw one.
For sale, reasonable.
Wilson , W4BOH, infomet@embarqmail.com

Looking for a qyt programming cable for KT8900
Posted May 6th, 2020 by: WZ0Q
Contact: wz0q@outlook.com

I am looking for a qyt programming cable to borrow or purchase.
for model#KT8900 Dennis wz0q
919-413-5998 Or email me.

Wanted: hardline
Posted May 6th, 2020 by: K4CKB
Contact: cbusch@nc.rr.com

Need 200+ feet of Heliax and appropriate N connectors. Please call/text/email Chris at 919.866.8742 or cbusch@nc.rr.com

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Yaesu FTdx101D

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https://www.rars.org

RARS Board Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2020

Ridge Road Baptist Church
2011 Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC
* This meeting was conducted over Zoom

John Honeycutt opened the meeting at 7:03 PM.

The following were in attendance:

Members:

John Honeycutt - N8ZU
Tom Lewis - N4TL
Greg Seamster - KE4PAX
Mark Kilmer - KM4JRH
Chuck Littlewood - K4HF
Carl Davis – W8WZ
Hank Montgomery – K4HM
Bob Starkenburg – W4TTX
Jeremy Lindsley - KB4JDL

A quorum was present and the previous meeting minutes were approved.

Tom recommended a test meeting be scheduled to assist those unfamiliar with Zoom.

Officer/Committee Reports:

President: - John Honeycutt
Suggested that we discuss the methodology of future meetings and events.

Vice President: - Tom Lewis

Brian Harrison (KM4R) will present next month's meeting using Zoom.

Under the current set of circumstances, it was unsure what the June, Field Day, meeting content would be. The meeting could be scaled down.

Treasurer: - Greg Seamster

Membership is at 411 members. Greg Seamster, KE4PAX presented a draft budget for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. There was a discussion on the current YTD spending as well as the draft budget.

Education Director: - Carl Davis

We are in a 'wait and see' mode for the fall class.

Public Service Director (Interim): - Jeremy Lindsley

Presented his findings concerning the costs of the safety vest replacement costs. Range ran from $400.00 to $450.00.

Field Day Chair: - Bob Starkenburg

In consideration of the current circumstances with COVID-19, Bob noted that we are in a 'wait and see' mode.

Exciter Editor: - Tom Lewis

Any item for the next Exciter is due by May 2th.

Tom requested pictures form all attending the last club meeting (held over Zoom). Only 18 have responded.

RARS Board Meeting Minutes continued

ARRL Liaison: - Chuck Littlewood

Page 27: ARRL Liaison: ARRL NC Section Manager Dr. Marvin Hoffman, WA4NC took office April 1. If you are an ARRL Member you should set up your ARRL Member Profile to get his monthly informative newsletters.

RARS again thanks W4CHX for his past six years of service as the NC SM

Director at Large – Alan Pitegoff

Chuck DeCourt continues to monitor repeaters.

Danny Hamilton is still searching for a climber.

Suggestion to link to Gary Pearce's "Repeater Etiquette" presentation to Martin 1rossman's site.

Webmaster: - Hank Montgomery

Working on membership benefits list to put on website. Has sent preliminary list to the BOD for approval.

New Business:

John Honeycutt opened a discussion on the effects of future meetings and events of the club due to COVID-19 issues.

Hank Montgomery questioned if old RARS brochures should be used prior to printing the new ones. And if the new brochure should posted on the website.

BOD made the decisions to use a number of old brochures first and to post the updated one on the website.

RARS Board Meeting Minutes continued

Existing Action Items:

John Honeycutt:

- Contact Jeff Wittich to have new board members added and old members removed from rarsboard-l. (Closed)
- Contact the church again about the temperature control. (Open)

Mark Kilmer:

- Contact Paulette at Supreme T-Shirts and Apparel about the new shirt order process. Contact has been, but has not been completed. (Open)
- Send insurance certificate to John. (Open)
- Contact Paulette at Supreme T-Shirts and Apparel about the new shirt order process. (Open)

Hank Montgomery:

- Add links to the website. (Closed)
- Update web page to resolve orphaned links referenced in the Exciter. (Open)
- Create a list of member benefits to post on the RARS website. (Open)
- Post a notice on the web page indicating the suspension of all in-person RARS gatherings. Post the same message as a "sticky" message on rars-l and rars@groups.io. (Open)
- Mark upcoming meetings on the RARS calendar as canceled. (Open)
- Send documentation of the president's "RARS Web Alert" facility to John Honeycutt. (Open)
- Publish current RARS*fest* news containing RARS*fest* cancellation notice on RARS*fest* website. (Open)
- Put link to ARRL Hamfest Cancellations on the website. (Open)

Tadd Torborg:

- Contact Virginia Enzor to have the New HAM Meeting time added to the net script. (Open)

Jeremy Lindsley:

- Research the replacement cost of new safety vests for the Public Service volunteers, and present the results to the board.

New Action Items:

Mark Kilmer:

- Contact Paulette concerning status of the new website shirt order process.
- Set up May club Zoom meeting.
- Set up a test Zoom meeting with same ID as club meeting.
- Send e-mail to Greg with link to Zoom website learning services to forward to membership.

Alan Pitegoff:

- Visit club shed to see what type of safety vest we already have.

Greg Seamster:

- Send purge list to Jeff Wittich, and mention removing non BOD names from the rars-board-l reflector.

Announcements:

Doug Sweet's Special Life Membership Plaque was mailed to him

John Honeycutt adjourned the meeting at 8:52 PM

Meeting Minutes submitted by Mark Kilmer, KM4JRH;
Secretary, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

RARS Membership Meeting – May 12, 2020

* Ridge Road Baptist Church
2011 Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC

* The normal club meeting space was closed, due to the COVID-19 "Stay at Home Order." The meeting was conducted using the Zoom video conferencing software.

The meeting was opened by President John Honeycutt (N8ZU), at 7:30.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

John called for visitor introductions and those who had recent license upgrades.

A quorum was present. April minutes were approved.

Officer Reports:

President:

The RARS Board of Directors meeting will be one week from today.
All members are invited.

Vice President:

Next months meeting topic will be Field Day 2020, presented by Bob Starkenburg (W4TTX).
The July meeting topic will be "Patrolling the Ether", presented by Brian Harrison (KN4R).

Treasurer:

The 2020, 2021 budget is being finalized and will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Secretary:

No report

Director and Committee Reports:

Director at Large: Alan Pittegoff (AB4OZ)

In lieu of the Taco Thursday gathering, Alan (AB4OZ) has been calling a special "Taco Thursday Net" on the 146.640 repeater. It is a technical net and occurs every Thursday at 11:30 AM.

Due to inclement weather, the "Taco Thursday", "Meet and Greet" will be rescheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2020. in the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center parking lot.

Field Chair: Bob Starkenburg (W4TTX)

There will be no 'regular' Field Day event this year. An intra-club competition will take place instead. Members may operate from home, mobile or portable stations on emergency power or mains. Logs will be submitted to the ARRL, and returned results forwarded to Bob Starkenburg (W4TTX).

Education Director: Carl Davis (W8WZ)

Wake County Public Schools will proceed with their Adult Evening Education classes. Carl and Mark Kilmer (KM4JRH), met to discuss the Fall Technician Class curriculum, which was submitted to the school and had been approved. In response to student feedback from last year, the class will be extended from six to eight weeks and, will include more "hands on" activities. The classes will run from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. and will begin September 30 and continue through October 18, with the last class including the exam session. Registration will be through the school website. When registration information is received, Hank Montgomery (K4HM) will update the RARS website. Carl put forth a request for class instructors.

RARS Members meeting minutes continued

Door Prizes:

There were no door prizes given

Additional Announcements:

Doug Sweet (AD4UL), expressed his appreciation for the Special Life Membership Plaque presented to him by the club.

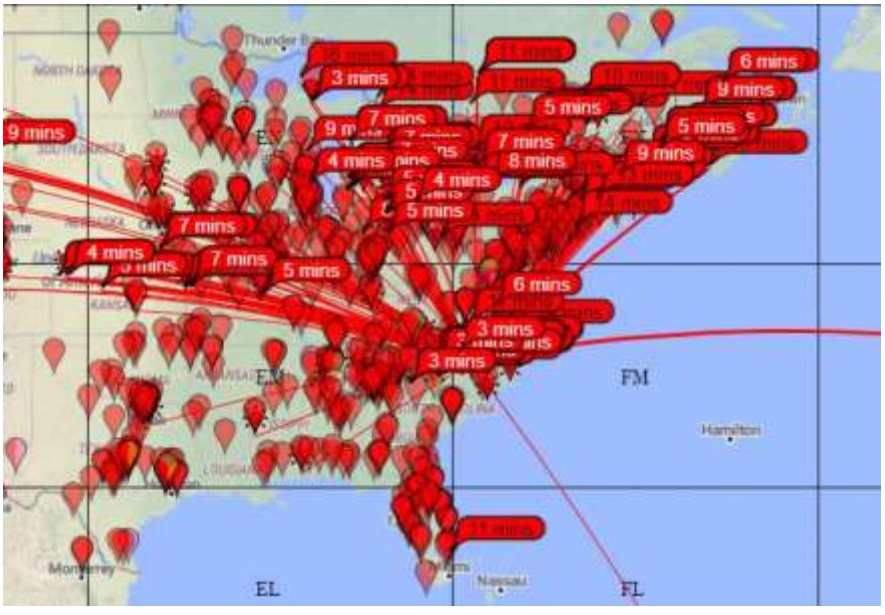
Tonight's Program:

Tom Lewis introduced Brian Harrison (KN4R), for the nights presentation.

Meeting minutes respectively submitted by Mark Kilmer (KM4JRH), Secretary, RARS.

John Honeycutt adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM.

Six Meter opening



June 3, 2020 at 18:00 UTC or 2 PM local time